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ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH and SANITARY
INSPECTOR OF THE URBAN
DISTRICT OF WHITWORTH
DURING 1952

WHITWORTH

Rothwell Brothers, Printers, 671 Market Street
1953

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THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN—COUNCILLOR MRS. ISABELLA HEYS, J.P., C.C.

COUNCILLOR W. FITZPATRICK

E. HOWORTH

R. E. JACKSON

J. H. NUTTALL

A. TAYLOR

Medical Officer of Health :

R. W. FARQUHAR, B.SC. (AGRIC), M.B., CH.B., D.P.H. JAN.—JUNE

T. P. O'GRADY, M.B., B.CH., B.A.O., D.P.H. JULY—DECEMBER

Sanitary Inspector and Housing Inspector :

F. COOKSON, M.S.I.A., CERT. MEAT AND FOODS

Clerk · JULIE NOLAN, D.P.H.H. JAN.—JUNE

MARY PILLING. AUG.—DEC.

Clerk and Solicitor to the Council :

MR. H. HOYLE

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE WHITWORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MRS. HEYS AND GENTLEMEN :

I have the honour to present for your consideration the Annual Report on the Health of Whitworth for the year 1952.

My appointment as your Medical Officer dates from July when Dr. Farquhar resigned to take up duty elsewhere in the County.

The form of this report is substantially unchanged and contains the section dealing with the General Provision of Health Services in the district which was introduced two years ago.

The general health of the area, as evidenced by the death rate and infant mortality rate, continues satisfactory. For the first time since 1947 the birth rate shows a slight increase on that of the previous year.

There were four deaths of infants in 1952, giving an infant mortality rate of 31 per 1,000 live births as compared with three deaths (infant mortality rate 27 per 1,000) in 1951.

As regards infectious diseases the most outstanding feature was the outbreak of Smallpox in the adjoining County Borough of Rochdale and the surrounding County Districts. Three cases occurred in Whitworth.

For the fourth consecutive year no case of diphtheria occurred, a substantial tribute to preventive methods.

Cases of measles and whooping cough continued sporadically throughout the year. No deaths resulted from either disease.

My thanks are due to Mr. Cookson for his willing assistance and co-operation throughout the year.

Finally I thank the Chairman and Members of the Committee for their help and support.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. O'GRADY.

SECTION 1.
STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Summary of Statistics - 1952.

Area (Acres)	4483
Population (Census 1931)	8360
Population (Census 1951)	7442
Population estimated (Mid 1952)	7456
Number of inhabited houses (1952)	2724
Rateable Value	£35,697
Sum represented by a penny rate	£134

LIVE BIRTHS	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	63	62	125
Illegitimate	1	4	5
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	64	66	130

Birth-rate per 1,000 estimated population 17.4

STILL BIRTHS	1	0	1
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births			8

DEATHS	52	56	108
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population			14.5

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	NIL
Maternal mortality rate	NIL

	Male	Female	Total
INFANT MORTALITY	4	0	4

Death rate of infants under one year of age :

All infants per 1,000 live births	31
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	32
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	NIL

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY

Deaths of infants under four weeks of age	3
Rate per 1,000 live births	23

DEATHS FROM CERTAIN SPECIFIED DISEASES

Diseases of Circulatory System	66
Cancer (all forms)	14
Tuberculosis	4

CAUSES OF DEATH.

ALL CAUSES	M. 52	F. 56
Enteric fever ... ..	...	...
Small-pox ... ..	...	...
Measles ... ..	...	...
Scarlet fever ... ..	...	...
Whooping cough ... ..	...	..
Diphtheria ... ..	...	...
Influenza ... ..	...	...
Meningococcal Infection	1	..
Respiratory Tuberculosis	3	1
Other Tuberculosis ... ..	...	...
Malignant neoplasm—Stomach	2	2
Malignant neoplasm—Uterus ... ..	...	2
Malignant neoplasm - Lung etc.	2	...
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasm	3	3
Rheumatic fever ... ..	...	...
Diabetes ... ..	...	1
Cerebral hæmorrhage ... ..	...	...
Heart disease	17	22
Leukaemia	1	...
Other circulatory diseases	10	17
Bronchitis	1	3
Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	...	...
Other respiratory diseases ... ..	...	...
Peptic ulcer	1	...
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years) ... ..	...	...
Appendicitis ... ..	...	...
Liver diseases ... ..	...	...
Other digestive diseases ... ..	...	...
Nephritis	2	1
Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	...	...
Syphilis... ..	...	...
Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth..	...	...
Other diseases of pregnancy and parturition ... ..	...	...
Suicide	1	...
Motor Vehicle accidents ... ..	...	...
All other accidents	1	...
Other deaths from violence ... ..	...	...
Other defined causes	1	...
Ill-defined or not known	6	4
Poliomyelitis ... ..	...	...
Polioencephalitis ... ..	...	...

INFANT MORTALITY.

DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES AT VARIOUS AGES UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week	1-4 Weeks	Total under 1 Month	1-6 Months	6-12 Months	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes. { Certified { Uncertified ...	2 ...	1 ...	3 ...	... ...	1 ...	4 ...
{ Small-pox
{ Chicken-pox
{ Measles
{ Scarlet Fever
{ Diphtheria and Croup
{ Whooping Cough...
{ Diarrhœa
{ Enteritis
{ Tuberculous Meningitis...
{ Abdominal Tuberculosis...
{ Other Tuberculous Disease
{ Congenital Malformations
{ Premature Birth
{ Atrophy, Debility
Marasmus...
Atelectasis	2	...	2	...	...	2
Injury at Birth
Erysipelas
Syphilis
Rickets
Meningitis Septicaemia	1	1
Convulsions and Asphyxia	1	1	...	...	1
Gastritis
Laryngitis
Bronchitis
Pneumonia (all forms)
Suffocation...
Influenza
Endocarditis
Pemphigus...
Accident
Total.....	2	1	3	...	1	4

COMMENTS ON VITAL STATISTICS

Population.

The population of the Whitworth Urban District at the 1951 census was 7,442, but the Registrar-General's estimate of the population (mid 1952) was 7,456 and it is on this figure that the birth and death rates have been calculated.

Births.

The total number of births during 1952 was 130, which is equivalent to a crude birth rate of 17.4 per 1,000 of the population. This rate, when standardised for age and sex distribution of the population, gives an adjusted birth rate of 18.7, which represents the highest birth rate since 1947.

Deaths.

The total number of deaths (108) is equivalent to a crude death rate of 14.5 per 1,000 of the population. The chief causes of death are shown in the table on page 5. Heart disease was the most common cause of death, accounting for 36.1% of the deaths occurring during the year. If all deaths from diseases of the heart and circulatory system are considered together they account for 61% of the total deaths.

All forms of cancer caused 14 deaths, whilst diseases of the respiratory system (Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Tuberculosis) caused 8 deaths.

Maternal Mortality.

For the fourth successive year there were no deaths from diseases or accidents connected with pregnancy and childbirth.

Infant Mortality.

In Whitworth in 1952 there were four deaths of children under one year of age, giving an Infant Mortality Rate of 31 per 1,000 live births. This compares with 3 deaths in 1951, when the Infant Mortality Rate was 27 per 1,000. Of the four deaths in 1952 three occurred during the neo-natal period (i.e. under one month) and were due to congenital defects.

Still Births.

There was one still birth during the year, giving a still birth rate of 8 per 1,000 live and still births.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Since 5th July, 1948, the personal health services, some of which were previously the responsibility of the Whitworth Urban District Council, have been administered by the County Council through Divisional Health Committee. And although the Whitworth U.D. Council is adequately represented on Divisional Health Committee No. 13, it is considered fitting to include in this report a review of the services provided for the inhabitants of Whitworth by the Divisional Health Committee.

The environmental health services are, of course, still under your own control, but, as your Medical Officer of Health is also Divisional Medical Officer, co-ordination locally of the whole of the Public Health Services is ensured.

THE WHITWORTH CLINIC, BURNEDGE VILLA, MARKET STREET

The clinic premises at Burnedge Villas are used as a combined clinic for both school and child welfare purposes. On page 14 will be found details of the various sessions held at this Clinic.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS

It is a requirement of section 203 of the Public Health Act, 1936, that every birth shall be notified to the Medical Officer of the Welfare Authority for the area in which the birth takes place. Since the National Health Service Act, 1946, came into operation arrangements have been made for every birth notification to be sent to the Divisional Medical Officer, as this method greatly facilitates the prompt visiting of new-born infants and their mothers by the health visitors in the area.

DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY SERVICE

During the year, through the good offices of the Whitworth Council, the tenancy of a new house was made available to the County Council for the accommodation of an additional midwife. During the year the midwives attended 61 domiciliary confinements, representing approximately 46.9% of the total confinements in the district.

The provision of dressing cubicles at the Whitworth Clinic provided a much needed facility for the mothers attending the ante-natal and post-natal clinics.

The services of emergency maternity units are available from several hospitals in the neighbourhood. Local Authority provision for expectant and nursing mothers includes the free supply of sterilised accouchement outfits and includes the loan of special equipment for premature babies.

CHILD WELFARE CENTRE

A weekly welfare session was held at the Whitworth Clinic throughout the year. The total number of attendances made by children amounted to 2,321, this being an increase on the 1951 attendances. Dried milk, cereals and other foodstuffs are on sale at the clinic, and where necessary vitamin and iron products are also available. The following figures summarise the work done during the year.

ATTENDANCES AT WHITWORTH CHILD WELFARE CENTRE

Year	All Sessions (including Doctors' Sessions)								
	Number of Sessions during year	Number of individual children attending at ages :				Number of attendances by children at ages :			
		0 yrs	1 yr	2-4 yrs	Total	0 yr	1 yr	2-4 yrs	Total
1952	51	159	23	33	215	1951	257	113	2321
1951	51	139	23	52	214	1516	165	129	1810

HEALTH VISITING SERVICE

During the year Whitworth health visitor made 4,771 individual home visits to 2621 homes. The health visitor also carried out the duties of a school nurse, and further information on the extent of her work is given in the following table :

WORK CARRIED OUT BY WHITWORTH HEALTH VISITOR DURING 1952

Number of Individual Visits	Number of Homes visited	Clinic and Centre Sessions attended			
		School Clinics	Child Welfare Centres	Antenatal and Postnatal Clinics	Other Sessions
4771	2621	95	43	9	18

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

Parents have the choice of having their children protected against diphtheria and smallpox either by their own family doctor or at the school clinic. Every endeavour is made by the medical and nursing staff to persuade parents to give their consent to these very necessary and valuable preventive measures.

As will be seen from the table below, 104 children completed the full course of primary immunisation, while 172 received reinforcement injections. This represents a decrease on last year's figures due, I believe to the occurrence of smallpox and the consequent disorganisation of the diphtheria immunisation programme over several months of the year.

The immunisation state of the child population under 5 years of age is still well below the safety threshold and can afford no grounds for complacency.

NUMBER OF DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATIONS PERFORMED IN WHITWORTH

Number of individuals who completed a full course of Primary Immunisation									No. of Re-inforcements			
Age at date of final injection									Age group			
0—	1—	2—	3—	4—	Total under 5 yrs	5—	10—	Total 5-14 years	0—	5—	10-14 incl.	Total 0-14 years
1952												
42	37	5	2	2	88	11	5	16	35	72	65	172
1951												
58	36	8	5	4	111	22	10	32	4	107	76	187

The occurrence of smallpox accounted for the phenomenal rise in the number of vaccinations performed during 1952, and the protection thus afforded should represent a good insurance against the recurrence of smallpox, either in the major or minor form, for some years. It is, however, essential to maintain this satisfactory position by continuing with the high level of infant vaccinations. The following table summarises the work done on vaccination.

NUMBER OF VACCINATIONS PERFORMED IN WHITWORTH

	PRIMARY VACCINATIONS					RE-VACCINATIONS				
	AGE IN YEARS					AGE IN YEARS				
	Under 1	1—	5—	15—	Total	Under 1	1—	5—	15—	Total
1952										
P.	73	247	719	658	1697	—	16	81	735	832
S.	73	245	714	655	1687	—	16	79	712	807
1951										
P.	32	9	1	2	54	1	—	—	19	20
S.	31	9	1	2	53	—	—	—	18	18

P = NUMBER PERFORMED

S = NUMBER SUCCESSFUL

HOME NURSING

With the continued pressure on the general practitioner and hospital services, the need for domiciliary nursing has tended to increase. During the year under review the Whitworth nurse attended 268 cases. This involved not less than 4,443 separate visits, and this large number reflects great credit on the nurse. The following table summarises the work done.

WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE DISTRICT NURSE IN WHITWORTH—1952

Cases attended				Visits made		
On books at 31.12.51	New cases attended 1952	Cases completed 1952	Remaining on books at 31.12.52	Day	Night	Total
39	268	271	36	4442	1	4443

HOME HELP SERVICE

This service is designed primarily to deal with emergency cases, ready to give assistance to families with young children so that the breadwinner may return to work. Applicants are required to contribute towards the cost of this service according to the financial circumstances of the household, but most old age pensioners are entitled to this service free of charge. During the year an evening and night help service was introduced for use in really necessitous cases only.

NUMBER OF WHITWORTH CASES ATTENDED BY HOME HELPS IN 1952

	1951	1952
Confinement at home.....	4	7
Tuberculosis	1	1
Old Age, Infirmary and Chronic Sick	5	4
	<hr/> 10	<hr/> 12
	<hr/>	<hr/>

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

Health education has an important bearing on the prevention of illness and the informal teaching carried out by all members of the Health Services in the course of their day-to-day duties is supplemented as occasion arises by the distribution of leaflets, booklets and posters from the clinic.

The happy relationship established with the staffs of hospitals in the year allows of continuity of treatment when persons are discharged from hospital and come under the care of midwives, health visitors, or district nurses in the home. Aftercare arrangements also include the provision of Convalescent Home Treatment, and during 1952, 9 adult persons from Whitworth were sent for convalescence under the County scheme.

The care and after-care of persons suffering from Tuberculosis in Whitworth is carried out as a routine duty by the Tuberculosis Health Visitor. Articles of sick room and after-care equipment are stored at convenient centres and are available on loan.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The Whitworth area is covered by the Bacup Ambulance Station, and there has been a further increase during the year in the number of cases handled by the personnel of this station.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

Two mental health workers on the divisional staff are responsible for the ascertainment of mental illness and mental deficiency, for the community care of mental defectives, and the after-care of persons who have undergone treatment for mental illness. The difficulty in obtaining institutional care for suitable cases has continued to prove extremely difficult, and represents a problem not merely local but national.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

Local co-ordination between the School Health Service and the other health services of the County Council is secured by reason of the fact that your Medical Officer of Health, in his capacity as Divisional Medical Officer, is required to undertake duties as Senior School Medical Officer within his division, including Whitworth. Whilst the main purpose of the Clinic is educational, children, who on attendance are found to be suffering from some ailment or defect, are referred for appropriate treatment to the family doctor, or for such specialist attention as may be indicated. It is regretted that since December, 1948, it has not been possible to obtain the services of a dental officer for the Whitworth area, even for the priority classes of pre-school children and expectant mothers. Close integration in the field is achieved also since the Whitworth health visitor also acts as school nurse so that continuous contact with and supervision of children can be maintained from birth to the end of school life.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The bacteriological examination of milk, water, and ice cream is now carried out at the Public Health Laboratory at Monsall Hospital, Manchester, and this laboratory may also be used for the examination of specimens of blood, faeces, urine, throat swabs, etc. in connection with epidemic disease. The laboratories at Birch Hill and other local hospitals continue to carry out bio-chemical and other examinations for general practitioners.

APPENDIX

TABLE I

CLINIC SESSIONS HELD AT THE SCHOOL CLINIC, MARKET STREET,
WHITWORTH.

Minor Ailments :	Tuesday, 9-30 a.m.—12 noon. Fridays, 9-30 a.m.—10-30 a.m.
Child Welfare :	Tuesdays, 2—4 p.m.
Immunisation and Vaccination :	4th Tuesday in month, 10-30 a.m.
Ante-natal Session :	Mondays, 2—4 p.m.
(Midwives only).	(Doctor attends on first) Monday in month).

TABLE II

DIVISIONAL HEALTH STAFF—WHITWORTH AREA.

Asst. Div. Medical Officer & Sch. Medical Officer.	Dr. M. A. Feeny, School Clinic, Market Street, Whitworth. Tel. Whitworth 52381.
Health Visitor and School Nurse.	Miss E. B. Ferguson, School Clinic, Market Street, Whit- worth. Tel. Whitworth 52381.
Tuberculosis Health Visitor.	Miss N. D. Hanmer, Chest Clinic, Drake Street, Rochdale. Tel. Rochdale 3892.
District Nurse.	Mrs. N. Franklin, Scarr View, Market Street, Whitworth. Tel. Whitworth 52177.
Domiciliary Midwives.	Mrs. A. Hillary, 321 Market Street, Whitworth. Tel. Whitworth 52119. Miss M. Gould, 63 Wallbank Drive, Whitworth. Tel. 52331.
Home Help Organiser.	Mrs. J. M. Harrison, Divisional Health Offices, 193 Drake Street, Rochdale. Tel. Rochdale 48231.

Mental Health Workers. Mr. J. H. Todd, Divisional Health Office, Rochdale. Tel. Rochdale 48231. (Outside Office Hours, Tel. Heywood 69348).

Mr. E. B. Williams, Divisional Health Office, Rochdale. Tel. Rochdale 48231. (Outside Office Hours : Tel. Oldham MAIN 5488).

Ambulance Station,
Bacup.

Station Leader J. A. Ashforth,
Commercial Street, Stacksteads.
Tel. Bacup 728.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis)

DURING THE YEAR 1952.

DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED												HOSPITAL	
	Total Cases at all Ages	AGE PERIODS—YEARS										Total deaths	Total cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital of per- sons belonging to district.
		0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65 & over				
Smallpox :	3						2	1					3	..
Scarlet Fever :														..
Diphtheria, (including Membranous Croup) ...														..
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)... .. :														..
Acute Primary Pneumonia ... }														..
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia... }														..
Puerperal Fever ... }														..
Puerperal Pyrexia ... }														..
Meningococcal Infection	1		1											..
Acute Poliomyelitis... ..														..
Encephalitis Lethargica...														..
Dysentery :	1				1									..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum...														..
Erysipelas :	2								1	1			1	..
Gastro Enteritis ... ..														..
Malaria { Contracted in this Country ... ..														..
Abroad .....														..
Any other diseases notifiable in district, e.g. :—														..
Chicken-Pox :	10		1	2	2	5								..
Measles, excluding German measles	94		4	24	31	32	2	1						..
Whooping Cough	32		2	8	9	13								..
Any other disease ... ..														..
Food Poisoning	3				1									..
Totals :	146		7	35	42	52	2	3	3	1	1		4	..

INFECTIOUS DISEASES—Monthly Incidence, 1952

DISEASE	Total	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Small Pox ...	3			3									
Scarlet Fever ...	0												
Diphtheria ...	0												
Measles ...	94	1	6	17	24	9	9	19	9				
Whooping Cough ...	32	1	2	8	6			6		5		4	
Pneumonia ...	0												
Erysipelas ...	2	1								1			
Puerperal Pyrexia	0												
Meningococcal Infection	1			1									
Chicken Pox ...	10				3	3	4						
Food Poisoning ...	3								2			1	
Dysentery ...	1										1		
Totals ...	146	3	8	29	33	12	13	25	11	6	1	5	0

INFECTIOUS DISEASES—Comparison 1943—1952

DISEASE	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943
Small Pox ...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	...	6	8	28	4	5	3	5	7	13
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	1	1	4	5	14	109
Enteric Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ...	94	79	135	101	86	64	27	75	82	79
Whooping Cough ...	32	38	54	15	67	5	28	24	13	23
Pneumonia ...	...	4	5	10	4	2	3	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	...	1	...	2	1	2	...	1	...	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	...	...	...	1	1	2	1	...	2	1
Erysipelas ...	2	1	4	2	6	3	2	2	2	3
Dysentery ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Meningococcal Infection ...	1	1	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	1
Gastro Enteritis ...	...	...	...	...	25	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Polio-myelitis ...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken Pox ...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	143	130	207	161	196	86	69	112	120	231

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1952.

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1 year .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—5 „ .....	..	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
5—10 „	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10—15 „ .....	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
15—20 „	1	2	...	...	..	...	...	...
20—25 „ .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25—35 „	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
35—45 „ ....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45—55 „	2	...	...	...	2	1	...	...
55—65 „	2	...	...	...	1	..	...	...
65 and upwards.	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	9	4	1	0	3	1	0	0
	13		1		4		0	
	14				4			
Total 1951 ...	4	5	0	1	2	1	1	0
	9		1		3		1	

The following is a list of the occupations, if any, followed by notified cases during the year 1952.

	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
School Children	2	1
Cotton Operative	2	—
Bus Conductor	1	—
Labourer	3	—
Retired	2	—
Woollen Operative	1	—
Clerk.....	1	—
T.B. Health Visitor.....	1	—
	13	1

COMMENTS ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifications.

The table on page 16 gives a summary of the various infectious diseases notified during 1952, together with their age incidence. During the prevalence of Smallpox in Rochdale and surrounding districts Chickenpox was made notifiable for a temporary period, and 10 cases were notified.

Incidence.

It will be seen from the table on page 18 that the total number of cases was slightly above that for the previous year. This is mainly accounted for by the addition of Chickenpox to the list of notifiable diseases.

Measles.

This disease continued sporadically throughout the year and was generally mild in character. There were no resultant deaths.

Whooping Cough.

The production of more potent vaccines is likely to lead to a much more extensive use of preventive inoculation methods against this distressing disease. Of the 32 notified cases no fatality resulted during the year.

Scarlet Fever.

No case of scarlet fever was notified during the year.

Smallpox.

Three confirmed cases occurred during the year, and in addition two cases admitted to hospital as suspects were later discharged as the diagnosis was not confirmed. Fortunately this disease was of the mild form and no fatality occurred. The large number of vaccinations performed (see table on page 11) as a preventive measure will assist in lessening the danger of any future outbreak, not only of the minor but also of the more serious form of this disease.

Diphtheria.

For the fourth consecutive year no case of diphtheria has occurred in the District.

Tuberculosis.

Fourteen cases were notified during the year (13 respiratory and 1 non-respiratory) with four deaths. This shows an increase of four cases, whereas the number of deaths is the same as in 1951.

It is regretted that it was not possible to arrange for a visit of the Mass Miniature Radiography Unit to Whitworth during the year, but it is hoped that a Unit will visit the District in the near future, whereby unsuspected cases may be discovered.

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council
of Whitworth.*

MRS. HEYS AND GENTLEMEN :

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1952.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

66 Preliminary or Informal Notices and 5 Statutory Notices for the abatement of nuisances and the remedy of sanitary defects in and around dwellings were served on owners and occupiers.

It was not found necessary to take legal proceedings in any case during the year.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

Number of premises visited	342
Number of Sanitary Defects found	132
Number of sanitary improvements effected	91
Food premises inspected	63
Factories inspected	6
Offensive trades	2
Premises under Shops Acts	165

SANITARY DEFECTS FOUND.

Houses :

Dampness of walls and ceilings	12
Defective Roofs	3
Defective Floor Boarding or Flagging	2
Defective Chimney Flues and Stacks	2
Defective Wall and Ceiling Plaster.....	8
Defective Fire Ranges, Fixed Boilers, etc.	2
Defective Skirting Board	1
Defective Eavestroughing	7
Defective Slop-stone Waste-pipes	7
Defective Slop-stones	1
Defective Window Frame or Sash Cords	6
Unhygienic Rooms and Bedding	2
Defective External Door	1
Insufficient Water Supply	3

General :

Choked Water Closet or branch drainage	12
Insanitary Closet accommodation	5
Insufficient Sanitary accommodation	1
Choked or defective House Drainage	16
Defective Sanitary accommodation buildings	1
Defective Sanitary accommodation fittings	12
Burst water service pipes	8
Water Supply unprotected from contamination	2
Defective Rain Water Pipes	14
Defective or dangerous landing	1
Accumulation or depositing of Refuse	1
Emission of smoke into living rooms	1
Unpaved or badly drained yard	1

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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

A. Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Water Supply.

The water supply to the area is mainly satisfactory, being provided by the Rochdale Corporation, and the majority of the houses has a supply of water that is wholly sufficient and good in quality.

The water is collected from upland surface gathering grounds and afterwards treated by modern methods of filtration and chlorination.

Two supplies of well water were discontinued during the year and the houses connected to Public Mains Supply. Negotiations are in progress for another supply of well water to be discontinued.

25 samples of the public water supply were taken during 1952 and submitted for bacteriological examination. All were reported satisfactory.

13 samples were submitted for chemical analysis and satisfactory reports were received.

The number of dwelling houses supplied from public mains is 2589 and 121 houses have supplies drawn from private sources.

Regular sampling of the 10 private water supplies has been carried out. During the year 76 bacteriological examinations and 3 chemical analyses were made. A certain number of the supplies are intermittently showing *Bacillus Coli* and *Faecal Coli* and it is hoped that during next year a change over to public mains supply will have been achieved.

Public Cleansing.

Household refuse is collected on a weekly basis from all the houses in the area and approximately 2,030 dustbins are emptied by one side-loading waggon.

The refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping methods on land at Landgate. The position is suitable, being situated a good distance from dwelling houses, yet at the same time, easy of access.

No serious trouble has been experienced due to fire or the infestation of the tipping area by rats, crickets, etc. Trouble is being experienced however, by flooding due to the drainage pipes laid under the tip becoming blocked with

debris but particularly with shale carried down from the higher ground by flood water. This question will have to be dealt with, because however much clearing is carried out, the trouble repeats itself each time there is very heavy rain.

The Council also have in operation a salvage scheme and the following table shows the weight of materials recovered during the twelve months under review. There has been a gradual reduction in the weight collected and the disposal of the baled waste paper became rather a difficulty at one period.

	Tons	Cwts.
Waste Paper	8	10
Kitchen Waste	18	3
Scrap Iron, Rags, etc.	2	0
Light Metal	9	18

The kitchen waste is processed at the Rochdale Cleansing Department and returned as pig food.

Details of the cost of collection and disposal of household refuse are as follows :

Loads removed	1317
Cost per load	£1 19s. 10d.
Refuse in tons (estimated)	3292
Cost per ton	15/11d.
Number of houses and premises.....	2903
Cost per house and premises per an.	18/1d.
Average length of haul	1½ miles...

Sanitary Accommodation.

The sanitary accommodation of the area is as follows :—

Fresh Water Closets	1967
Waste Water Closets	161
Pail Closets	58
No. of houses on the Water Carriage system	2676

The Pail Closets existing are situated at the following premises :—

Dwelling-houses	34
Mills and Workshops	6
Farms	7
Churches.....	11

With very few exceptions they cannot be converted to the fresh water carriage system, in view of the fact that they are situated in outlying parts where no sewer is available.

Although the Council encourage the conversion of waste water closets to the fresh water carriage system, progress is slow and there is no authority for compulsory conversion.

Referring to the sanitary accommodation generally, there are numerous blocks of houses where the occupiers of the dwellings have to walk distances of 20 or 30 yards down the street to the sanitary accommodation, this being jointly used by two or more families. Unfortunately, this state of affairs cannot be improved at the present as most of the houses concerned are either back to back or otherwise scheduled for reconditioning, etc.

Atmospheric Pollution.

Generally speaking, little trouble was experienced during the year by atmospheric pollution from smoke, and it was not therefore necessary to take any legal action in this matter.

The continual nuisance caused by the emission of grit and fumes from foundry premises ceased, due to the firm moving to more suitable premises where modern plant was installed.

In the near future, apparatus for the measurement of the amount of pollution is to be installed in conjunction with the Manchester and District Regional Smoke Abatement Committee.

Much still remains to be done with regard to the pollution caused by domestic chimneys but smokeless fuels and improvement in the design of domestic fireplaces will aid progress.

Rodent Control.

The main sewers were treated on two occasions during the year and judging by the number of baits taken, the treatment was successful in disposing of a fair number of these destructive pests.

10 industrial, 17 domestic premises and 9 farms were treated for infestation. In addition the river was treated on 3 different occasions.

A part-time man is employed for dealing with these treatments, and a charge is made for his work when engaged on industrial and farm premises.

B. Housing.

Very little can be added to previous years remarks upon this subject, particularly in regard to the older type of houses.

There are approximately 750 houses of the back-to-back type and 170 of the back-to-earth type with a cavity at the rear of little consequence. The majority are so built as to be incapable of re-conditioning.

These are often wanting in many points now regarded as essential for the health of the inmates and it is very difficult to decide how far it is practicable to enforce modern requirements in such houses. In many instances, there is increasing deterioration due to lack of proper maintenance. No hard and fast line can be drawn between that which is essential and that which is desirable.

The building of new houses continues and I am of the opinion that the question of dealing with the unfit houses should be dealt with in the very near future.

It is still difficult to assess the extent of overcrowding in the district, and until a new survey is authorised, no accurate statement can be given. 41 cases of overcrowding were relieved due to re-housing by the Council.

HOUSING STATISTICS

(a) NUMBER OF DWELLINGS PROVIDED During 1952

(1) By the Local Authority	....	...	....	....	....	42
(2) By other bodies and persons	....	...	...	...	....	0
						<hr/> 42
						<hr/>

(b) UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	106
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	283
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under subhead (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations	0
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	0
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding subhead) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	47

2.	Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices—	
	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	42
3.	Action under Statutory Powers during the Year—	
A.	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the housing Act, 1936—	
	(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	0
	(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—	
	(a) By owners	0
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0
B.	Proceedings under Public Health Act—	
	(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	5
	(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of notices—	
	(a) By owners	5
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0
C.	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936—	
	(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	1
	(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	0
D.	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936—	
	(1) Number of tenement or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	3
	(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenements or rooms having been rendered fit	0
4.	Housing Act, 1936, Part IV - Overcrowding—	
A.	(1) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year (No accurate figures can be given. A new survey is required)	
B.	(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	41
	(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	230
5.	Housing Act, 1949—	
A.	(1) Number of schemes submitted—	
	(a) By private individuals	0
	(b) By the Local Authority	0
	(2) Number of dwelling houses affected	0
B.	(1) Number of schemes approved—	
	(a) Of private individuals	0
	(b) Of the Local Authority	0
	(2) Number of dwelling houses affected	0
	(3) Number of additional separate dwellings provided	0

C. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Milk Supply.

Under the above regulations the Local Authority is no longer concerned with the production of milk on the farm, this being the function of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The Local Authority, however, retains responsibility for those provisions which apply outside dairy farms, for the provisions relating to diseases communicated to man, and the registration of dairies which are not dairy farms, and of dairy-men or distributors of milk who are not dairy farmers.

Throughout the district there are 33 dairy farms representing approximately 600 head of cattle. 26 shops, other than dairies are also registered distributors of bottled milk. There are no shops selling unbottled milk.

Tuberculosis.

23 samples of Milk as compared with 40 in 1951, have been obtained from farmers during the course of delivery and submitted for examination for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli. One sample was found to contain Tubercle Bacilli, and was referred to the Ministry of Agriculture for attention.

Methylene Blue Reduction Test.

23 samples, as compared with 36 in 1951, were obtained in the course of delivery, and 19 conformed with the required standard.

Ice Cream.

Routine visits were made during the year to the two premises in the district where ice cream is manufactured, and also to the premises where ice cream is sold by retail only. A large amount of the ice cream sold is now pre-packed and manufactured outside the district.

44 samples were submitted for examination and were provisionally placed in the following grades :

Grade 1	—	35	Grade 2	—	3
Grade 3	—	2	Grade 4	—	4

Owing to the numerous factors governing the hygienic quality of ice cream, it is unwise to pay much attention to the bacteriological results on any single sample. Judgment should be based rather on a series of samples. It is suggested that over a six-monthly period 50% of a vendor's samples should fall into Grade 1, 80% into Grades 1 or 2, not more than 20% into Grade 3, and none into Grade 4.

Of the 4 samples which were Grade 4, the matter was taken up with the producer.

8 other samples of iced-products were obtained and reported upon as satisfactory.

Food and Drugs Acts, 1938 to 1950.

The provision of the above Acts, so far as they relate to the sampling of food for nature, substance and quality are administered by the Lancashire County Council in co-operation with the Local Authority.

A total of 49 samples was obtained, of these 31 were of milk and the 18 others comprised :—

2 Salt.	1 Pancake and Yorkshire
1 Salt, cooking.	Pudding Mixture.
1 Beans and Tomato,	1 Cornflour.
canned.	1 Lard.
1 Carrots, canned.	2 Luncheon Meat, Canned.
1 Peas, canned.	1 Minced Meat Loaf.
1 Mixed Vegetables,	2 Cooking Fat.
canned.	2 Glycerin of Borax.
	1 Cake Flour Mixture,
	sweetened, including
	Glaze Cherries.

All the samples were reported by the County Analyst to be genuine with the exception of the following :—

SAMPLE	RESULT OF ANALYSIS	ACTION TAKEN
1 Pancake and Yorkshire Pudding mixture.	Available Carbon Di-oxide only 0.38 per cent. and infested with live mites.	Further sample obtained. Stock surrendered and destroyed.
1 formal milk	Deficient 10 per cent. fat. Deficient 9 per cent. solids - not - fat and the freezing point indicated the presence of 4.7 per cent. extraneous water.	PROSECUTION : Vendor fined £5 with £4 4s. 0d. costs.
1 formal milk	Deficient 1.6 per cent. fat.	

Food Shops, etc.

There has been a noticeable improvement in food shops, regarding the covering of food placed on the counter. Many shops are now fitted with glass counter covers.

A further improvement which has been carried out is in seeing that all kitchen workers wear head gear whilst handling food, and it would definitely be a step forward if, instead of food cooling taking place wherever possible, a definite cooling store was provided.

Attention has had to be called to the presence of animals in the room where food was being prepared.

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937 & 1948

PART 1 OF THE ACT—1—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTOR

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
SECTION I : Factories in which Sections I, II, III, IV and VI are to be enforced by Local Authorities	55	...	...
SECTION II : Factories not in- cluded in (I) in which Sec- tion VII is enforced by the Local Authority	6	...	...
SECTION III : Other premises in which Section VII is en- forced by the Local Author- ity (excluding out-workers' premises) ... ..	...	...	...
Total ...	61	...	...

2—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars (1)	Number of defects			Number of offences in respect of which prose- cutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred by H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of cleanliness	6	6	...	...
Overcrowding ... ..	...	...	...	...
Unreasonable temperature ...	...	...	...	...
Sanitary Accommodation :				
insufficient	1	1	1	...
unsuitable or defective ...	2	2	2	...
not separate for sexes ...	...	...	...	...
Other offences against the Act	2	2	2	...
Total ...	11	11	5	...

PART VIII OF THE ACT—OUTWORKERS : Three

Sewage Works.

The method of treatment is by precipitation tanks, continuous filters and humus tanks. The samples have not been too satisfactory, i.e., borderline results, this being due to many of the essential parts of the plant wearing out and the difficulty of repairing and replacement.

At various times, due to the breakdowns, it has not been possible to deal with the pressing of sludge. In consequence, the sludge accumulates and although pressing is carried out daily when all is in working order, it is not possible to make up the lost ground. The result is that the removal of the sludge from one set of sedimentation tanks takes so long that, before the completion of emptying, the other sets of tanks are getting full and becoming septic.

It will be necessary to consider this question very soon as the Rivers Board are pressing for the effluent to be satisfactory.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, I desire to acknowledge the courtesy extended to me by the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, and also tender my thanks to the Medical Officer of Health for his assistance rendered in the discharge of my duties.

I am,

Yours obediently,

FRED COOKSON, C.R.S.I.,
*Sanitary Inspector
 and
 Meat and Foods Inspector.*

*Health Department,
 Council Offices,
 Whitworth.
 August, 1953.*

